

1900

# President Tompkins's Letter Book

Arnold Tompkins

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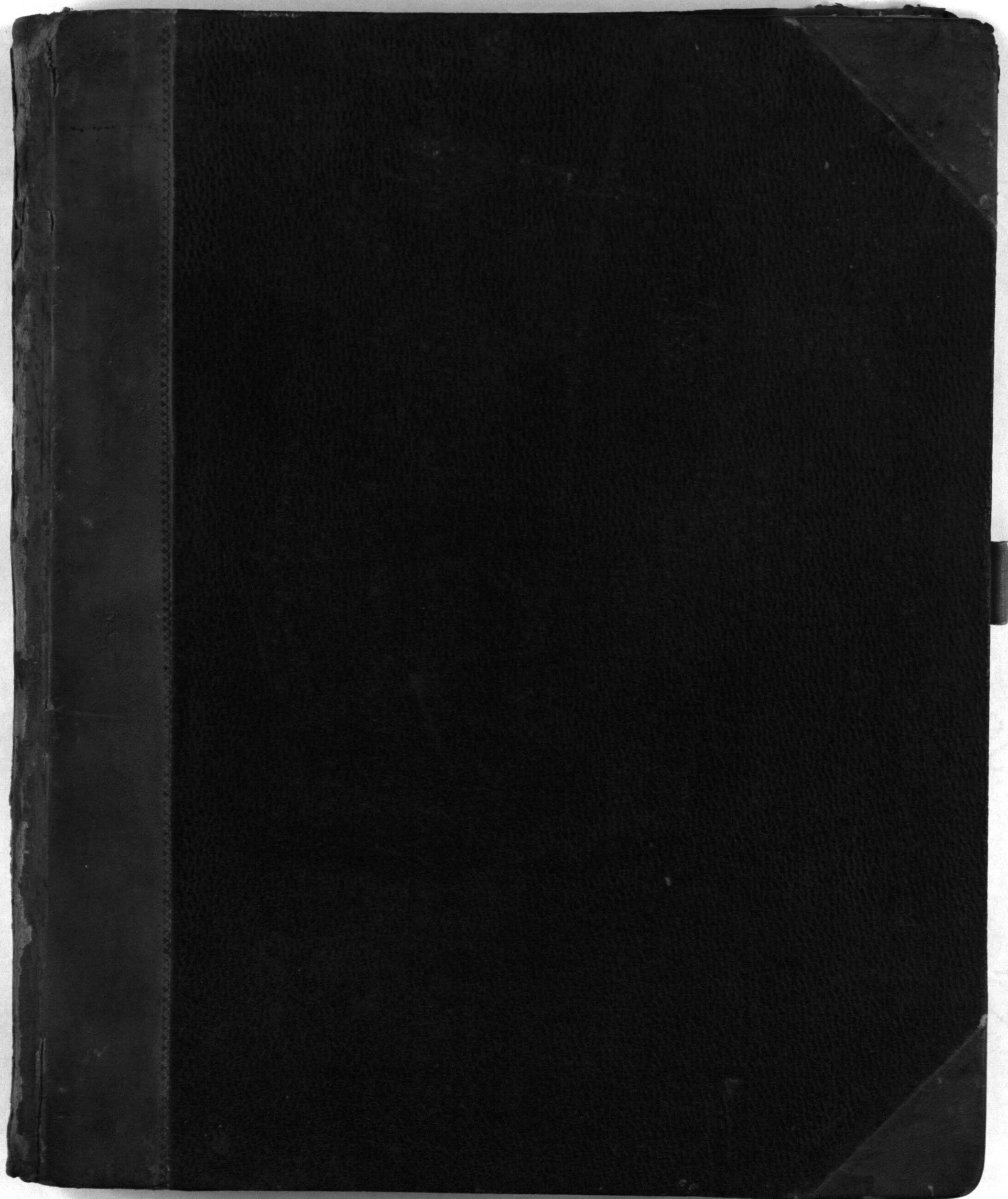
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Pres. Tompkin's letters,

Sept. 1899 - June 1900

Illinois  
Collections



Sept. 14, 1899.

Mr. J. Percival Huggett,

Cedar Rapids, Ia.

Dear Sir:--I am glad you have found the right book. I hope it may really prove so. You will see by this letter that I am no longer at the University of Illinois, hence I have no statement of the work there to send.

Yours truly,

Sept. 14, 1899.

Mr. W. H. Angell,

Urichsville, Ohio.

Dear Sir:--Previous arrangements will prevent me from engaging with you for an institute in 1900.

Yours cordially,

Sept. 14, 1899.

American Book Co.

521-533 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:--Just received the "Story of the Great Republic" but have not yet had time to examine it. Will do so as soon as I am through with the present confusion of work. Thanks for the copy. I would be pleased to have you send me a copy of the "Stories of Georgia" Enclose bill as the book is not for examination but for my own use.

Yours very truly,



Sept. 14, 1899.

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Miss Clara L. Beis,

Whitehouse, Ohio.

Dear Miss:--Owing to previous arrangement I will be unable to serve you in your County Institute. I wish that I could do so.

Yours truly,

Sept. 14, 1899.

D.C. Heath & Co.

378-388 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Gentlmen:--I have just found the copy of "Organic Education" sent me. I shall examine it at the very first opportunity. I am sure now that I will find it an excellent book.

Yours truly,

*Conrad Thompson*



Sept. 14, 1899.

Supt. P.R. Walker,

Rockford, Ill.

Dear Sir:--Yours of Sept. 11th is at hand. I like all that you say. I have just made a note of the points you name as to each committee having a certain portion of the appropriation. I think that is correct. I shall make it a point before the next Board meeting. The present enrollment of students is 446. I just learned that De Kalb has an enrollment of 139 and Charleston of 121. I am not sure just how much we are short over last fall term but more than one hundred certainly.

Everything starts off very pleasantly here and I feel more and more every day that I shall like the work. I see more clearly, too, that an extra teacher is needed, but of course we shall not be able to secure him. I have the same classes that Pres. Cook had and the new students, perhaps 250 all come to me in one class; good, bad, and indifferent all classed together. So the class is not only too large but badly graded. More than that, the pupils begin their practice work in the second term. Nothing very definite and specific has been done during the first term to prepare them for such practice. The work done now under the head of Elements of Pedagogy, which forms the large which I mentioned above, should be organized into smaller classes and given such work as will be a definite basis for the work done in the Practice school.

The extra fee charged to the McLean County students who do not make an average of 85 or over, is a source of a little friction. I believe that it is an unjust discrimination and that the action should be re-



needed. It is not a question as to where students come from to the Normal School but a question as to their willingness to serve in any part of the State to which they may be called. Further, there are now other normal schools established which makes less excuse for the present law. The McLean County students will be simply driven to the other schools. Of course the matter cannot be changed now and we are following the regulation established by the Board in this matter. Further, on the matter of fees: The other morning at chapel I announced that the \$2 fee was charged all of the students except those paying other fees, such as the \$15 fee from McLean County students. I have learned since that I made a mistake, that the \$2 fee has been charged all of the students whatever other fees they may have paid. I feel that my view of the case was correct but I did not follow the letter of the law in the matter. It seems hard to charge the other students a good fee and besides to add to them \$2 fee. Of course there are not many who would have to pay both fees and I am not sure that the matter is serious enough for me to collect the other extra fee.

Yes, the death of Prof. Galbreath was a great blow to us all. So thoroughly prepared, so ambitious, and so hopeful, yet all of his plans were unexpectedly defeated!

Yours cordially,

Pres. John W. Cook.

De Kalb, Ill.

Dear Sir:--Is the enclosed bill O.K.? Hope you had a successful opening. Things started pleasantly here. The number of students is 434.

Yours very truly,



Sept. 14, 1899

Mr. Charles L. Capen,

Bloomington, Ill.

Dear Sir:--I tried to get you by telephone to-day but found you in court. I did not need anything in particular but wished to say a word or two while I was resting.

The platforms in the society halls, are done and look well. The two west doors in the East hall open inward. Should they not be changed to open outward? Those in the west room were changed. The carpets are about down and everything will be ready for the first meeting.

I think we should have some coal very soon.

I have been collecting the \$2 term fee only from those students who do not pay other fees, such as the \$15 fee from McLean County students but I just learn that the \$2 fee has been collected from all students without reference to other fees. This seems to me a little unjust and since but few pay other fees, it may not be worth while to make the correction. By the way, I feel that the McLean County fee is no longer proper, but of course, it cannot be changed this term. We have other normal schools now and I think they will not change such a fee in their counties. Besides, it is not a question as to where students come from here, whether far or near, it is simply a question as to the service they will render to the State.

We have enrolled 464 students. I just learned that De Kalb opens with 139 and Charleston with 121. Come out and see us at your convenience.

Yours cordially,



Sept. 19, 1899

Co.Supt. W.P.Mavity,

Pekin, Ill.

Dear Sir:--Yes, I would be glad to meet your teachers but I have already made arrangements for all of my Thanksgiving time. I hope I can serve you at some other time.

Yours truly,

Sept. 19, 1899.

Mr.C.E.Thomas,

Mendon, Ohio.

Dear Sir:--I will have no time left for institute work next summer.

Would be glad to serve you if I could.

Yours cordially,



Sept. 19, 1899.

Mr. L. A. Newsom,

Mt. Sterling, Ill.

Dear Sir:--I mail you catalogue, which will give the information you desire. Yes, you can enter at any time, but it is more convenient if you could be here at the beginning of the term. You would not have to pay tuition. Good board and room can be had for about \$3.50 a week. ~~crab~~ boarding about \$2.10 per week and a room from \$4 to \$6 per month.

Yours truly,

*Arnold Thompson*

Sept. 19, 1899.

Miss Laura May Longwell,

Des Moines, Ia.

Dear Miss:--Thanks for the good words about my work in yours of Sept. 16th. I have published two books, which may be of some help to you in the same line: "Philosophy of Teaching" and "Philosophy of School Management". I have found much help in Caird's "Philosophy of Religion". Also in Caird's "Hegel", Evertt's "Science of Thought", Browning as "Philosophic and Religious Teacher" is a very helpful book. These will give you a good start in the kind of thinking you are interested in.

Yours truly,

*Arnold Thompson*

*Rev. Emerson & Carlyle.*

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Sept. 19, 1899.

Pres. Seth Lowe,

Columbia University, New York City.

Dear Sir:--I wish to make a statement as to the character and scholarship of Fred R. McMurry. He was a student of mine for a year or more, in the University of Illinois, and he proved himself to be a most estimable and capable man. I think I have never had a better student in spirit, ability, and all that goes to make a good student. I have great hope for his success, marked success, in the future. I doubt if you could give a scholarship to any one more worthy.

Yours truly,

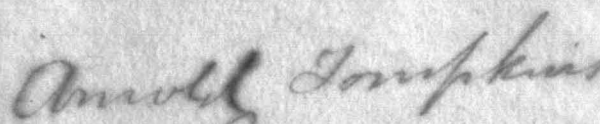
*Arnold Thompson*



Sept. 23, 1899.

This is to certify that Edward R. Hendricks graduated from the Illinois Normal University in 1895.

Signed,



Sept. 23, 1899.

Miss Cara S. Benseoter,

Forest City, Ill.

Dear Miss:--Enclosed find list of books that I failed to enclose in the preceding letter. Yes, your brother will need two letters of recommendation aside from his appointment. These letters to be filed, according to the law of the University. Our school term began Sept. 11.

Yours truly,



Sept. 23, 1899.

W.W. Ulerich, Co. Supt.

Greensburg, Pa.

Dear Sir:--It is difficult to state what I shall do in the forenoon session of your institute without knowing the particular needs of the teachers whom I am to address. In general I expect to present the psychology of the teaching process and the science and the art of the recitation. If some sections should prefer, I can give a course of work on the language arts, including composition, reading, and literature. I think you can divide the above so as to make a forenoon program for me. In the afternoon I will give a course of lectures on the philosophy of education, including its ethical, logical, and aesthetic aspects. Will give about two lessons on the first, two on the second and one on the third. Under another cover I mail you photo.

Yours cordially,





J.H.Elliott,

Fairmount, Ill.

Dear Sir:--I am glad to hear from you and that you found your summer's work helpful.

The expressions you inquire about in the "Chambered Nautilus" and others of the same character I would explain by saying that they awaken general emotion which serves as a basis and setting for the particular emotion which it is the purpose of the poet to stimulate. I think you will find that this interpretation of these expressions will give complete organic unity to the poem. The poet must awaken a general background of feeling to buoy up the main sentiment.

Yours truly,



Sept. 23, 1899.

D.C.Heath,

110 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:--Yours of Sept. 12th at hand. I have now no book under way and will be too busy in my new work for the present year, to do any writing. I have often desired to write a book in the lines which you suggest. I believe it is a needed book in high school work. The chapter on "life", beginning about page 42, in my "Philosophy of Teaching", indicates the line of thought I would follow. It would be a book on "Life and Living" and would be psychology and ethics combined in one. I have also in mind a philosophy of education but cannot work on it much now.

I am very much pleased to know of your favorable opinion of my work

Yours cordially,





Sept. 23, 1899.

Mr. J. A. Kilpatrick,

Lebanon, Ohio.

Dear Sir:--So far as I can now see my time is all taken for 1900, and I could not promise so far ahead as 1901. But I will keep you in mind for 1901, Hoping that I may be able to serve you, I am

Yours very truly,

*Arnold Lampkin*

Sept. 23, 1899.

Miss Lucy Crawford,

140 North St., Hamilton, Ohio.

Dear Miss:--The letter I should have sent you was sent to the one whose letter you received. My "Literary Interpretation" is at present out of print I hope to have it out during the coming winter, but I cannot speak positively yet.

Yours truly,

*Arnold Lampkin*

Sept. 23, 1899.

E. M. Farland,

Shoals, Ind.

Dear Sir:--Owing to my pressure of work here and previous engagements I do not see how I shall be able to serve you at all. Wish I could.

Yours truly,

*Arnold Lampkin*



Miss Mamie Bennett,

3618 S. Rockwell St.

Brighton Park, Chicago.

Dear Miss:--Your diploma will admit you to the school without examination. I hope that you can be with us. I mail you catalogue.

Yours truly,

*Am. M. Thompson*

Sept. 23, 1899.

Hon. Alfred Bayliss,

Springfield, Ill.

Dear Sir:--I hereby make application for order to pay the enclosed bills. Please return bill.

Yours truly,

enclosure.

*Am. M. Thompson*

Sept. 23, 1899.

Pantagraph Printing & Stationery Co.

Bloomington, Ill.

Gentlemen:--There appears to me to be a mistake in the enclosed bill.

Yours truly,



Sept. 25, 1899.

My Dear Mr. Cook:

I am sure that neither Mr. Felmley nor myself felt that we did not receive due attention while at De Kalb, nor that our visit was a failure because of the weather. I had good entertainment at the hotel as you may have learned. We were very sorry that you had such bad weather for your exercises. We came home earlier than we expected because we did not think we could hear your program. We were well pleased with your building. It is commodious, substantial, and elegant. We are all proud that one school in the State is so well housed. I will be glad to see you when you come down September 30th. I handed your letter to Prof. Felmley. I hope that the occasion at De Kalb will advertise your school well and create sentiment for you for future uses.

Yours cordially,

*Arnold Thompson*

Sept. 25, 1899.

S. Y. Gillan,

Milwaukee, Wis.

My Dear Friend:--Thanks for the "Rifle Creek papers and little sermons" My wife has been enjoying it and so have I, so far as I have had time to read it. I shall write you when I have read it through. Come down and visit your old school.

*Arnold Thompson*
*Arnold Thompson*



Sept. 25, 1899.

Supt. N.H.Chaney,

Chillicothe, Ohio.

Dear Sir:--It may be that I can serve you some time in July 1900. Preferably the first week. So far I have refused all engagements for that year but Chillicothe, being the birthplace of my mother, I feel tempted to serve you. My terms are \$150 for the week, myself paying all expenses.

Yours truly,

Sept. 25, 1899.

Supt. F.E.Willard,

Marshalltown, Iowa.

Dear Sir:--I have very little knowledge of Mr.Wright as a teacher. He was a student in my class for some time and did passing work, but my opinion as to his fitness as a teacher of biology would not be worth much. Supt. Carter, of the Champaign schools, in which Mr.Wright taught, could give you safe information.

Yours truly,

*Amos L. Lough*



Sept. 25, 1899.

Supt. W.J. Meredith,

Seattle, Wash.

Dear Sir:--Yours of Sept. 11th at hand. I have been trying to find a way to serve you in your county institute but have not yet succeeded. Our winter term closes March 22 for a vacation of a week, and I could not reach you in that time and have time to do any work in your institute. If your institute were held during our long summer vacation I could serve you.

Yours very truly,

*Arnold Thompson*



Sept. 26, 1899.

G. G. Johnson,

Normal, Ill.

Dear Sir:--Herewith find check for \$1. in payment of your bill. Please receipt and return enclosed vouchers at your early convenience.

Yours truly,

Sept. 26, 1899.

Corn Belt, Printing & Stationery Co.

Bloomington, Ill.

Gentlemen:--Herewith please find check for \$15.50 in payment of your bill. Please receipt and return the enclosed vouchers at your early convenience.

Yours truly,

Sept. 26, 1899.

A. B. Dick Co.

Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:--Enclosed find check for \$21.90 the amount of your bill. Please sign the enclosed vouchers and return at your early convenience.

Yours truly,



Sept. 26, 1899.

Central Union Telephone Co.

Bloomington, Ill.

Gentlemen:--Enclosed find check for seventy cents, the amount of your bill. Please sign and return enclosed vouchers at your early convenience.

Yours truly,

Sept. 26, 1899.

Mr. R. R. Bowker,

New York.

Dear Sir:--Collection was made to-day by draft, through the Normal Bank of \$3. for your bill of July 24th. Please sign the enclosed vouchers and return at your early convenience.

Yours truly,

Sept. 26, 1899.

P. A. Coen & Son,

Normal, Ill.

Gentlemen:--Enclosed find check for \$1.50 the amount of your bill. Please sign and return the enclosed vouchers at your early convenience

Yours truly,



Sept. 26, 1899.

Cole Brothers,

Bloomington, Ill.

Gentlemen:--Enclosed find check for \$9 in payment of your bill. Please receipt and return the enclosed vouchers at your early convenience.

Yours truly,



Sept/ 27, 1899.

Hon. Alfred Bayliss,

Springfield, Ill.

Dear Sir:--The last three orders you sent were numbered respectively 2570, 2571, 2572. The number 2569 is omitted. I do not know that this makes any difference but so far the books show no break in the numbers. If it makes any difference the next order might be numbered 2569. and this will make our numbers continuous.

Yours truly,

Sept. 26, 1899.

S. Y. Gillan,

Milwaukee, Wis.

My Dear Friend:--I mail you a catalogue which contains the latest list of our alumni. I am glad to do so and hope it will be of service to you

Thanks for the good words in The Western Teacher. I have been made to feel that what the Western Teacher says is exactly so, hence I must believe you this time.

Yours cordially,

Sept. 26, 1899.

Miss Jennie Sin Clair,

Humboldt, Ia.

Dear Miss:--I will not be able to serve you at your County Teachers' Association, owing to arrangements already made.

Yours truly,



Sept. 27, 1899.

Miss Dasy Calhoun

Farmer City, Ill.

Dear Miss:--I mail you catalogue, which will give the information you seek. Tuition is free, but a fee of \$2 a term is now being charged. Whether or not you will have to take an examination you can decide by reading the last part of page 7 of the catalogue. Will be glad to have you with us.

Yours truly,

*Arnold Thompson*

Sept. 27, 1899.

J.E.McMullan,

Arcadia, Ind.

My Dear Friend:--Thanks for the good words in yours of Sept. 25th. Will be glad to have you visit us. So far as I can now see one time will be as good as another.

Yours cordially,

*Arnold Thompson*



Sept. 28, 1899.

Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews,

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:--Permit me to say a word as to the fitness of Dr. W. H. Mace of Syracuse, N. Y., for the principalship of your Normal School.

In the first place, he is a model gentleman in every particular--a man of correct habits and very strong ethical life.

Dr. Mace is a graduate of the Indiana State Normal School, of Terre Haute, Ind. and also of Michigan University. He did a year of post graduate work at Cornell and took his Ph. D. at Jena last year. He has had successful experience in every phase of public school work, both country and city, and spent five years in the normal School of Du Paw University. More recently his chief emphasis has been on history, but he has never lost his interest in pedagogy and has been a constant student thereof. While in Jena, he was a student with Rein. He is a most skilful teacher, an artist in the class room, and is an effective extensim lecturer, in which work he is very popular in the East. Back of all of his work he has a sound philosophy. I know of no one who is so strong on both the side of scholarship and of pedagogical training. He knows both the detail of normal school work and the philosophy on which it is based. Further, he is a student, and knows the meaning of scholarship. I can think of no reason why he should not render eminent service in so important a position as that which you are seeking to fill.

Yours cordially,

*W. H. Mace*



Sept. 28, 1899.

Theodore Niewold,

New Holland, Ill.

Dear Sir:--Catalogue mailed you. You can enter the school this fall but the sooner you do so the better. For expenses of the school see page 9 of the catalogue. For conditions of admission see page 7. Since your high school is not on our accredited list, and since you have not a first grade certificate you would have to pass an examination, unless you have an appointment from your county superintendent, but I imagine that this examination would be nothing for you to fear.

Yours truly,

*W. H. Smith*

Sept. 28, 1899.

Mr. James H. Norton,

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:--Our club meeting, which was postponed, will be held next Tuesday evening at 7.30 o'clock. Hope your rush of work is over so that you can be with us.

Yours truly,

*W. H. Smith*



Sept. 28, 1899.

Mrs. Ella F. Young,

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Madam:--The faculty club meeting, which was postponed, will meet next Tuesday evening at 7.30. I hope you will be able to be with us, as that is the beginning of a series of discussions which will end in the revision of the course of study, and which is to shape the policy of the school. I am asked to present at that meeting, the true idea of a Normal School. I spent a good deal of time this summer in conference with members of the faculty and of the Board as to what is our true policy here. I should have caught you if you had not been in Europe, and I had planned to write you recently but have been too busy to do so. If it is not possible for you to be here I will either write you or call upon you some time before the next Board meeting; but we shall need your counsel and hope you can be present.

Yours truly,

*Arnold Thompson*

Sept. 28, 1899.

Supt. P.R. Walker,

Rockford, Ill.

Dear Sir:--I write to invite you to be present at our first faculty club meeting--next Tuesday evening at 7.30. This is the beginning of a series of discussions which is to shape the policy of the school, and we shall very much need your counsel. I hope it may be convenient for you to come.

Yours cordially,

*Arnold Thompson*



Sept. 28, 1899.

E.A. Gastman:

Decatur, Ill.

Dear Sir:--The faculty club, which was postponed from last Thursday night, will meet next Tuesday evening at 7.30. If you should arrive on the 8 train you will not be too late for the meeting. I do hope that you can be with us, as it is the beginning of the series of important meetings--a series which is to shape the policy of the school.

Yours cordially,

Sept. 28, 1899.

Mr. Harry Helmer,

315-332 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:--I have referred yours of Sept. 27th to Miss Colby, our teacher of literature. I hope she will become interested in your books and give them careful attention.

Yours truly,

Sept. 28, 1899.

Co. Supt. J.E. Ramsey,

Mt. Carmel, Ill.

Dear Sir:--Owing to previous engagement I will not be able to serve you at your meeting following Thanksgiving. I would be glad to do so if I could. I am glad to know that your teachers desire to hear me. This of itself would be a strong inducement for me to come.

Yours truly,



Sept. 28, 1899.

Supt. E.M. Van Petten,

Bloomington, Ill.

Dear Sir:--I hereby extend to you an invitation to be at our first faculty club meeting, to be held next Tuesday evening at 7.30 I hope you will find it convenient to be present and to participate in the discussion.

Yours truly,

Sept. 28, 1899.

Supt. Benj. Apple,

Sunbury, Pa.

Dear Sir --I take it that Sanford W. Bell is a strong institute worker although I have not heard him in regular institute work. I know him well. He was a student of mine for two or three years. He is a strong thinker on pedagogical subjects and well known in this State.

Yours truly,